

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



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WSP Reports Memorial Day Statistics Result From Public Education

Chief Ronal W. Serpas announced today the Memorial Day Weekend saw a drop of 10% in the number of collisions on Washington's highways and interstates and only one fatality, compared to 5 in 2002 and 11 in 2001.

The WSP participated in Operation C.A.R.E (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) and the All American Buckle-Up Week, with the total number of contacts for violations down 23% from last year.

"The education and enforcement efforts of the men and women in the WSP are clearly impacting public safety, resulting in less enforcement on our part and safer driving by the public," said Chief Serpas. "The hard work of the troopers is clearly a part of this success."

A major goal of the WSP is to reduce fatality and injury collisions during the busy summer holidays by focusing enforcement efforts on individuals driving under the influence (DUI), dangerous speeding, aggressive driving, and failing to utilize seat belts or child safety restraints.

Troopers patrolled Washington's roadways in full force over the holiday weekend, resulting in a 12% increase in its number of DUI arrests. The numbers of speed citations were down 12%; seat belt citations were down 23% from 1,765 in 2002 to 1,356 in 2003; and child restraint citations were down 61% from 161 in 2002 to 62 in 2003.

"As long as there continues to be any loss of life on our highways, we are reminded we still have work to do," said Chief Serpas.

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